

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone) **CONFIDENTIAL**

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SUBJECT Investigations Preliminary to a Purge of SED Members

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- After the SED Vorstand meeting of 30 June all SED offices in the Russian Zone were ordered to submit written reports to Berlin headquarters on the results of investigations of SED members. The investigations were to include a thorough check on all former members of the SPD and trade union officials. The reports include details on private life, friends, relatives, and connections with SED members and others; especial attention is paid to SED members who travel to Berlin or the western zones or correspond with persons there; documentary evidence is required on the activities of suspect SED members on trips to Berlin.
 - At present this investigation of suspect SED members is not to be turned into a purge; complete reports are to be made to the party personnel offices but no expulsions from the party are expected. As a parallel action, all former KPD members in the SED are being marshalled in action committees which are kept in a state of alert. These committees use private means of communicating with each other and do not appear as units at official party offices or meeting places.
 - According to SED functionaries these measures are based on the realization that the SPD is the major foe of the SED and that former Social Democrats in the SED cannot be trusted to maintain party discipline. The SED does not plan to expel any members or to turn from its present status as a mass party to its old principle of a small, closely knit, fighting party. It is explained that the SED cannot afford this step because every SED member now automatically counts as one German vote in favor of Communism.

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